

## **Meeting Minutes**

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### **REGION 6 ATRC – Planning Meeting - 1**

**Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

**ATRC at Thomasville Civic Center**

**Thomasville, AL**

**10:00 am**

### **Meeting Agenda:**

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- Meeting was opened by Nichole D’Andrea
- The role of ConnectingALABAMA was explained
- Ground rules for the discussion were established
- Notecards were passed out with the following questions:
  1. Why did you attend this meeting
  2. What do you think is important about broadband
  3. What is the number 1 broadband issue in your region
- Each attendee discussed one of the questions listed above
- Attendees proposed projects to take place within 6 months to a year
- Upcoming events were discussed
- South Central Alabama Broadband Commission (SCABC) presentation of the Trillion Communications, Inc. Broadband Project

## Attendees and general comments derived from the meeting discussion:

Participant	County	Why are you here?	What is important to you about broadband?	What is your biggest issue regarding broadband?
Gigi Armbrecht	Clarke, Conecuh, Monroe, & Wilcox	To determine how broadband will affect providers.	Without broadband, the US cannot compete globally.	How can we make it ubiquitous in a fair way that makes good business sense?
Ronald Fendley	Clarke	To gain broadband accessibility	Currently has dial-up and would like to gain faster service.	How to gain access to broadband.
Daniel A. D'Andrea	Clarke, Choctaw, Marengo, & Wilcox	Get broadband update	Without broadband you cannot move in the 21st century. Speed, rural areas, and economic development.	The rural areas are being left behind.
Teresia Cherry	Choctaw	To learn more about broadband, and to get Pennington connected.	The need to be connected to broadband is great in the rural Blackbelt area. In some sections only dial-up is offered, which provides slow access to the internet. However, in other sections internet access is not offered.	Working hard to gain access to broadband for the Blackbelt area. The Police Department does not have what is needed to perform their job. ADT is helping.
Brandy Wilkerson	ATRC	Partners with ConnectingALABAMA.	The gaps in service in rural areas, plus the importance of it in attracting business/industry.	Gaps in broadband.
Bain Henderson	ATRC	Partners with ConnectingALABAMA.	To see broadband get into the rural areas of our region.	Gaps in service for our region.
Kenneth Walker	University of West Alabama	To help develop and expand broadband into the rural areas.	Education is essential.	Development/expansion, training/accessibility, technical assistance, and affordability.
Dr. Rose Mary Watkins	SCABC Cluster	To obtain information regarding plans for the counties in Region 6, which are also in the SCABC cluster?	Connectivity to rural communities for economic development and educational opportunities.	
Regina L. Davis	Choctaw	To participate in this initiative and gather information relative to the project.	Ensuring increased access to broadband and economic development.	Access and connectivity for rural communities.
Glen C. Haab	Monroe	To gather more information & a better understanding of the Broadband Initiative.	Accessibility and infrastructure	Gain coverage in all areas of Monroe county.
Brooke Atchison	Washington	To find out more about ConnectingALABAMA & how I can assist.	That every citizen in Washington County & surrounding areas has the option of broadband & are educated on how to use it.	Very rural areas of Washington County don't have the option of high speed internet.
Mayor Mike Kennedy	Monroe	To learn information about ConnectingALABAMA	Speed, coverage in our rural areas, economic development, and affordability	To have broadband service that will not drop of in speed, economic development & education, quality of service.
John Martin	Perry	To assist getting broadband into all Perry County.	Getting better service to our rural county.	Making it available to rural areas.
Dr. Aaron McCall	Lowndes	SCASC Regional Executive e-Program manager and interested in gaining 100% connectivity.	Access/availability, e-programming funding, economic development, education, telemedicine, and last mile funding.	

## **Recap:**

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- Attendees were reminded that there may be inaccuracies in the maps as the info is being obtained through service providers (only 78% reported), and from time to time Google Maps are incorrect. Therefore, each attendee was encouraged to provide feedback of the inaccuracies.
- The ConnectingALABAMA December Newsletter will be sent this month.
- The Butler Telephone Company, Inc. Broadband Project will conduct their program in Grove Hill.
- The Economic & Community Development Institute will provide training modules. Communities will have the opportunity to choose the modules that best fit their needs.

## **Closing:**

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Meeting drew to a close around 12:30 pm. Attendees and all others in the ConnectingALABAMA database will be kept informed regarding the details of the next Planning Meeting.